

Islamic Insanity #1

Introduction. The Lord warned of false prophets who would come in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15). Peter and John both warned of false prophets in the world (2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1-6). There is perhaps no greater false prophet who has had more impact in our world than the so-called prophet Muhammad and his religion which he started, Islam.

Islam is a driving force behind about 50 nations in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Thirty-five countries now have populations that are at least 80 percent Muslim. There are approximately 1.62 billion followers of Islam in the world (23% of the world's population). Incredibly, after 2002, 80% of all believers in Islam lived outside the Arab world. Islam is now the second-largest religion in Europe and the third-largest in the U.S., comprising about ten million Muslims.

I. The History And Background Of Islam

- A. In Genesis 15, God reiterated His promises to Abraham.
 - 1. Israel would go into Egyptian captivity (vv. 13-14).
 - 2. In the fourth generation they would return to Canaan (vv. 15-16).
 - 3. God's covenant included the land of Canaan (vv. 17-20).
- B. In Genesis 16:1-3, after ten years, Sarah resorted to human devices to bring about the promise of God. Hagar's son was Ishmael. Ishmael's character was described in Genesis 16:12. His people would be nomadic and fierce (cp. Job 39:5-8).
- C. Ishmael became the father of twelve princes, the ancestors of the Arabian people (Genesis 17:20). They dwelt "from Havilah to Shur" (Genesis 25:18). Havilah was probably in northwestern Arabia and Shur was near the Egyptian border.
- D. They have had a violent history.
 - 1. Thomas Newton wrote that Muslims "live in a state of continual war with the rest of the world ... they have been such enemies of mankind, it is no wonder that mankind have been enemies to them again" (Dissertations on the Prophecies, 1831, p. 23).
 - 2. Herodotus stated that the Persians could not conquer the Arabians. The Romans conquered many nations, but they never could subdue the Arabs.
 - 3. The events of September 11, 2001 and as recently as this month (downing of Russian MetroJet, Paris attacks, Mali hotel attack, and imminent terror warning for Brussels) represent Islam in its purest form.

II. The Background Of Muhammad

- A. Muhammad claims to be God's final prophet. Muslims believe in a chain of prophets starting with Adam and including Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon, Elijah, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus. But God's final message to man, a reconfirmation of the eternal message and a summing up of all that has gone before, was revealed to Muhammad through Gabriel (Galatians 1:8).
- B. Muhammad was born in Mecca around 570. He earned a meager living as an attendant on caravans, and watching sheep and goats (a disreputable

occupation among Arabs). He later gloried in it, appealing to the example of Moses and David.

- C. Muhammad suffered from severe headaches and feverish convulsions (fell on the ground like a drunk, snored like a camel, etc.). He attributed these epileptic fits to the overpowering presence of God.
- D. When he was 25, he married a rich widow who was 15 years his senior. After she died, he had many slave concubines and at least 14 wives. Over the years, they caused him much trouble and scandal. Ayesha married him at age 9, when he was 53. It was said of Muhammad, "The prophet loved three things: women, perfumes, and food."
- E. In 610, at age 40, he received the call of Gabriel (the archangel at the right hand of God) who tore open Muhammad's chest, removed his heart, cleansed it, and put it back. Because he never learned to read or write, Muhammad dictated the Qur'an from "inspiration" to disciples and clerks.
- F. Similarities between Muhammad and Joseph Smith.
 - 1. Uneducated.
 - 2. Claimed inspiration via the revelation of an angel.
 - 3. Claimed to be a messenger and apostle of God.
 - 4. Claimed the text of Bible is corrupt.
 - 5. Claimed to receive the fullness of the gospel.
 - 6. Subject of prophecy in Old and New Testaments.
 - 7. The Bible is the word of God if translated correctly, authenticated by the Qur'an and the Book of Mormon.
 - 8. Purpose was to unify.
 - 9. Allowed polygamy.
- G. Persecution forced his flight to Medina in 622. He returned to Mecca, victorious, in 630. He died on June 8, 632, at age 63 of a violent fever. He was the accepted prophet and ruler throughout Arabia. Among his last words, he said, "The sword is the key of heaven and hell; a drop of blood shed in the cause of Allah, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months of fasting or prayer: whosoever falls in battle, his sins are forgiven, and at the day of judgment his limbs shall be supplied by the wings of angels and cherubim." He also said, "The Lord destroy the Jews and Christians!"
- H. His religion is named Islam, which means "submission" to the will of God. The followers of Islam are called "Muslims" which means "one who submits."

III. The Qur'an

- A. Qur'an means "the reading" or "the book," and is divided into 114 "surahs" or series containing 6,225 verses. They are generally arranged by length from longest to shortest.
- B. What is true in the Qur'an is borrowed from the Bible; what is original is false or frivolous.
 - 1. No room for the Qur'an.
 - a) Christ's promise — guide them into all truth (John 16:13).
 - b) Paul's preaching — the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

- c) John's prohibition — the doctrine of Christ does not include the Qur'an (2 John 9).
 - 2. No need for the Qur'an.
 - a) The gospel will save every creature (Mark 16:15-16).
 - b) We are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).
 - c) The scriptures furnish completely for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - 3. Could first century Christians please God without Muhammad's revelations? Why not today (Jude 3)?
- C. About a year after Muhammad died, Abu-Bakr, his father-in-law and immediate successor, and Zayd, his chief secretary, collected the scattered fragments of the Qur'an "from palm leaves, and tablets of white stone, and from the breasts of men" without any regard to chronological order or continuity of subjects. As different readings of copies occasioned serious disputes, Zayd and others tried to secure the purity of the text by burning all previous copies.
 - 1. Earlier surahs speak often and highly of the Bible ("the Book of God," "the Word of God," "the Gospel"). They describe Jews and Christians as "the people of the Book."
 - 2. Most Muslims do not read the Qur'an; they rely upon the clerics to tell them what it means. One Muslim from Turkey expresses the feelings of many: "Now we are in Ramadan, I fast and practice, but I have never thought of reading the Qur'an, anyway; I would not understand any of it. Even a Turkish version would not help." Most clerics do not even know Arabic!
- D. Comparing the New Testament and the Qur'an.
 - 1. Jesus wrote nothing; Muhammad wrote nothing.
 - 2. Promised the Holy Spirit to guide disciples; no such promise.
 - 3. Apostles taught publicly and privately; Muhammad taught publicly and privately.
 - 4. Different copies arose; different copies arose.
 - 5. The New Testament was compared, collated, and collected; the Qur'an was compared, collated, and collected. But the rest of the copies were burned.
 - 6. The New Testament originals are not in existence now; the original Qur'an is not in existence now.
 - 7. Our copies of the New Testament are authentic; is the Qur'an authentic?
- E. The Qur'an contradicts itself.
 - 1. Surah 9:5; cp. 2:256.
 - 2. Surah 2:62; cp. 3:85.
- F. *The Satanic Verses.*
 - 1. Muhammad and his followers were persecuted for attacking the pagan faiths of Mecca, causing 83 of his followers to emigrate from Mecca to Ethiopia (Abyssinia).
 - 2. He did not want to continue offending his Arab tribesmen; he wanted them to become his followers or Muslims.
 - a) Under increasing boycotts and pressure, Muhammad compromised with Meccan pagans by acknowledging the existence of three pagan goddesses next to Allah: Lat, Uzza, and Manat (Surah 53:19-22). Islamic scholars set this surah in the time Mohammed spoke the satanic verses.

- b) The claim that Allah was involved with female goddesses while Muhammad and his people were left with men gave Salman Rushdie an opportunity in 1988 to make the impure account even more obscene, but Rushdie did not invent the satanic verses.
- c) When the inhabitants of Mecca heard Muhammad confess the importance of the ancient goddesses inside the Ka'aba (a cube building in Mecca), they immediately revoked their boycott on him. After hearing the persecution had ended, those who had immigrated to Abyssinia started to return home. When they arrived in Mecca, they were shocked to hear that Muhammad had retracted his confession, admitting that he had fallen prey to the whispering of Satan (Surah 22:52-53).
 - (1) He alleged that all prophets were tempted by Satan who inspires them with demonic verses, as if they were actually revealed by God. Allah later abrogated those satanic verses with new revelations.
 - (2) Islam says Allah permits such demonic inspiration to test weak believers and to cut off those with hardened hearts.
- d) Consequences of the satanic verses.
 - (1) If Muhammad could not distinguish Satan's voice from God's, are there other verses in the Qur'an that he assumed were from God but were really from Satan? Much of the Qur'an could be satanic in origin!
 - (2) Since Muhammad voiced Satan's words, according to the law of God, he should have been put to death as a false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:20).
 - (3) Critics of Islam did not invent this charge. The earliest available Islamic sources on Muhammad's life record it (the four early biographical writers of Muhammad: Ibn Ishaq, Wakidi, Ibn Sa'd, and Tabari).
 - (4) The Allah of the Qur'an is not the God of the Bible (cp. Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Luke 21:33; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17).

Conclusion. As you can see, the teachings of the Qur'an are vastly different than the Bible. Islam is not a friend of the gospel. How can Islam promote true peace when it denies the very means God has provided to establish a lasting peace between God and man, and between man and man (Colossians 1:20-22; Ephesians 2:14)? God wants to give you His peace that surpasses human understanding, but we must "submit" to His way of salvation, not Muhammad's.